



Join Us for Free, Fun, Programs!

Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

December, 2013

REGISTRATION

All refuge run programs are FREE but space may be limited and advanced registration is required for all programs, unless otherwise indicated. Please call (978) 465-5753. Registration is not complete until you receive confirmation from a staff member. Please note that outdoor programs may be cancelled if there is inclement weather and also insufficient registration. Visit us on the web for more information: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/parker_river/ or call Refuge Headquarters. The refuge visitor center is located at 6 Plum Island Turnpike, Newburyport, MA. **Please note: If a program requires pre-registration, your registration is not confirmed unless and until you receive a phone call or voice mail message from a member of the refuge staff.**

“Behind the Scenes” Refuge Tour

Held on the following days: Friday, December 6th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, Dec. 7th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Dec. 8th @ 1:00 pm; Friday, Dec. 13th @ 9:30 am; Saturday, Dec. 14th @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Dec. 15th @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, Dec. 21st @ 9:30 am; Sunday, Dec. 22nd @ 1:00 pm; Saturday, Dec. 28th @ 9:30 am; and Sunday, Dec. 29th @ 1:00 pm. Tours last approximately 2 hours.

Join a refuge ranger for a behind the scenes tour of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge. Tour will be conducted via refuge van, with several brief “drive by” stops along the way. The tour will present an “up close and personal” look at the refuge through the multiple lenses of the cultural history of Plum Island and the Great Marsh, native wildlife and their habitats, and the role of refuge management in the conservation of these precious natural resources. Participants may be driven along areas on the refuge otherwise closed to the public. This guided two hour program is most appropriate for older teens and adults. Binoculars and/or a camera are recommended, but not required. Meet the ranger in the lobby of the Refuge visitor center 15 minutes prior to the program start time. Each session is limited to 10 participants; no more than 4 individuals per sign-up. Again, this is a vehicle-based tour, with limited stops on the Refuge. ***Advance registration is required for this program, as enrollment is limited. Be advised that individual tours may be subject to cancellation.*** *Please note: Those who call and leave messages after hours, your registration is not confirmed until you receive a confirmation call from a Refuge staff member. ***Please call (978) 465-5753; to register for this program.***

***Ocean Frontiers II: A New England Story for Sustaining the Sea**

Monday, December 2nd at 7:00 pm in the visitor center auditorium

The recently released film *Ocean Frontiers II* describes how people representing many varied interests have come together to work on the nation's first multi-state ocean management plan. The coastal waters off New England have long been an important resource for recreation, commercial fishing and shipping. Today, climate change is affecting

these traditional uses, and proposals for off-shore energy raise new challenges. For example, if not planned carefully, wind energy development could harm productive fisheries, conflict with shipping routes and even impact submerged Native American sites. The state of Rhode Island invited a range of stakeholders to address their overlapping and often competing interests by looking at the coastal waters as a system. This management plan is now the model for a regional approach in New England and other U.S. coastal areas. *Ocean Frontiers II* is an inspiring story of citizens working together for healthier economies and healthier seas. The film will be followed by a panel discussion with **Catherine Bowes**, *Program Manager, Northeast Offshore Wind Program, National Wildlife Federation* and **Christopher Boelke**, *Field Office Supervisor, NOAA Fisheries, Habitat Conservation Division*. Preregistration is NOT required; anyone is welcome to attend.

The Photographic Society of Parker River National Wildlife Refuge

Next Meeting: Saturday, December 14th at 1:30 pm in the visitor center auditorium

The Photographic Society welcomes anyone who has an interest in nature, wildlife, and/or photography – whether you are a total novice or earn a living by taking pictures! The club meets every month, generally on the second Saturday afternoon. Club activities include special presentations, slide shows (of members' work), intra-club mentoring and training, photo shoots, on-line photo sharing, and involvement in the refuge's various photography-related programs, events, and outreach activities. **Pre-registration is NOT required to attend this program.** Please call (978) 465-5753 for more information about the Photographic Society.

***Preparing for Coastal Climate Change:**

How Do We Assess Vulnerability and Plan to Adapt?

**With Dr. Paul Kirshen, Research Professor, Civil & Environmental Engineering, UNH
*Monday, December 16th at 7:00 pm in the visitor center auditorium***

For thirty years Dr. Kirshen has served as Principal Investigator of complex, interdisciplinary, participatory research related to water resources and coastal zone management and climate variability and change. He is presently Research Professor with the Environmental Research Group of Department of Civil Engineering, and Institute for the Study of Earth, Oceans, and Space, at the University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH. Recent and ongoing relevant research includes developing adaptation strategies for urban infrastructure in several New England cities, investigating the impacts of increased coastal flooding on particularly vulnerable populations and adaptation strategies, and adaptation planning for multi-purpose, multi-objective river basin systems. He is a Lead Author for the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the US National Climate Assessment, and also serves on several state committees and commissions on climate change adaptation. Preregistration is NOT required; anyone is welcome to attend.

*These free evening presentations are part of a series of sea level rise-related programs that are being sponsored this fall by Storm Surge – The Merrimack Valley Coastal Adaptation Work Group.